

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed November 4, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicants submit the following remarks and have amended a claim. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-18 and 20-28 are pending in this Application. Claims 1, 12, 18 and 22 are independent claims.

Allowed Claims

Claims 1-6, 8-14, 16, 17 and 22-28 have been allowed.

Rejection under §103

Claims 18 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,708,771 (Brant et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,018,204 (Kuruma et al.). In the Office Action's reasoning for the rejection (see the Response to Applicant's Arguments on page 5), the Office Action states that every limitation of claim 19 was not incorporated into claim 18, and therefore the action is being made final. In particular, the Office Action points out that the following limitation is not present in the current form of claim 18 "performing a second error handling procedure to discontinue providing power to the critical circuitry and to the first section of the non-critical circuitry using the second power assembly when more than Y second power supplies fail".

In order to further the prosecution of this Application, Applicants have corrected claim 18 to incorporate every limitation (including the omitted limitation) from original claim 19. Applicants wish to point out that this amendment does not raise any new issues that require further searching and/or consideration since this amendment to claim 18 results in combining original claims 18 and 19 with such claims having already been under consideration.

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For the reasons stated above, claim 18 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art, and the rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn. Accordingly, claim 18 is now in allowable condition.

Because claims 20-21 depend from and further limit claim 18, claims 20-21 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

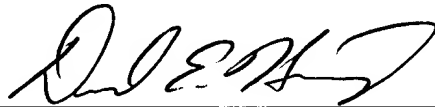
In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Amendment, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' Representative at the number below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this Amendment, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0901.

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If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: EMC01-25(01058)

Dated: January 4, 2005